

REMARKS

Claims 3-13, 16, 21-22, 24, 26-30 remain pending in this application.

Claims 15, 23, 25 and 31 have been cancelled.

Claim 3-9, 16, 21 and 22 have been allowed.

Claims 10 and 11 have been newly amended.

Claim 10 has been amended to require that any subtether remain connected to the dispenser.

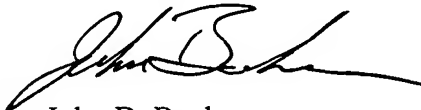
This change is supported by Fig. 4. This requirement avoids the lack of novelty rejection based on Tinkey (US 3217955) which describes a sticky tape dispenser in which the tape portion (subtether) is disconnected from the dispenser.

If Claim 10 is found allowable than Claims 24 and 26-30 should be allowable as well.

Claim 11 has been amended to require that the fastener and tether be formed from an integral piece of elastomeric material. This change is supported by the drawing and the specification at page 12 lines 12-17. In Nelson et al. (US 5989093) the tether and fastener are not formed integrally from a single piece of material.

In light of the foregoing arguments, the Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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5-25-04
Date